

**To:** Hayes, Scott[Hayes.Scott@epa.gov]; Gunn, Gene[gunn.gene@epa.gov]; Buchholz, Ken[Buchholz.Kenneth@epa.gov]; Williams, David (R7)[Williams.Dave@epa.gov]; Field, Jeff[Field.Jeff@epa.gov]; Engeman, Diana[Engeman.Diana@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Jackson, Robert W.[Jackson.Robertw@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Jaci[Ferguson.Jaci@epa.gov]  
**From:** Peterson, Mary  
**Sent:** Mon 8/17/2015 8:15:16 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Cessation of Mining Site Assessments

R7 has not ceased work at any sites at this point; OSWER is preparing additional guidance for the regions.

Last week OSWER requested each region to submit a mining sites inventory by Friday, which we completed (thanks to Gene for leading the effort). That effort was aimed at identifying any sites similar to the Gold King Mine where the Agency might have similar vulnerabilities. R7 did not identify any such sites.

I will forward the guidance when it is received from OSWER.

**Mary P. Peterson, Director**

**Superfund Division**

**EPA Region 7**

**11201 Renner Blvd.**

**Lenexa, KS 66219**

**Office: 913-551-7882**

**Cell: 816-398-3945**



*"To safeguard the health of our communities for all generations,  
we clean up contaminated lands.*

*In a culture of teamwork and respect,  
we are efficient, innovative, and fiscally responsible stewards of public trust."*

**From:** Hayes, Scott

**Sent:** Monday, August 17, 2015 2:54 PM

**To:** Peterson, Mary; Gunn, Gene; Buchholz, Ken; Williams, David (R7); Field, Jeff; Engeman,

Diana  
**Cc:** Jackson, Robert W.; Ferguson, Jaci  
**Subject:** RE: Cessation of Mining Site Assessments

I assume we are only stopping work on mining sites that are very similar to Gold King Mine, right?

**From:** Peterson, Mary  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 11:21 AM  
**To:** Gunn, Gene; Hayes, Scott; Buchholz, Ken; Williams, David (R7); Field, Jeff; Engeman, Diana  
**Cc:** Jackson, Robert W.; Ferguson, Jaci  
**Subject:** FW: Cessation of Mining Site Assessments

SUPR Managers,

Please note the direction from Administrator McCarthy below, and assess the impact on projects in your work units.

Please send information on impacted sites to Jaci and cc me by COB Friday, August 14.

Jaci – please compile the information and prepare a table showing the sites and work impacted.

## Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

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**RESPONSE**

**REMEDIATION**

**REUSE**

*"To safeguard the health of our communities for all generations,  
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**From:** Hague, Mark  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 11:03 AM  
**To:** Peterson, Mary; Weber, Rebecca; Cozad, David  
**Cc:** Brincks, Mike  
**Subject:** FW: Cessation of Mining Site Assessments

Let me know how this may impact any work in R7, if at all.

Thanks.

Mark

**From:** Adm13McCarthy, Gina  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 10:51 AM  
**To:** Blumenfeld, Jared; Curry, Ron; Enck, Judith; Garvin, Shawn; Hague, Mark; Hedman, Susan; McGrath, Shaun; McLerran, Dennis; McTeerToney, Heather; Spalding, Curt  
**Cc:** Fritz, Matthew; Stanislaus, Mathy  
**Subject:** Cessation of Mining Site Assessments

*Good morning everyone,*

*While we continue to investigate the root causes of last week's release of mining waste at the Gold King Mine in Colorado, we are instructing our Regions to immediately cease any field investigation work at mines including tailings facilities, unless there is imminent risk in a specific case. We are in the process of initiating an independent assessment by a sister federal agency or another external entity to examine the factors that led to last week's incident. Based on the outcome from that assessment, we will determine what actions may be necessary to avoid similar incidents at other sites. While we stand down on existing field investigations and assessments at these mining sites, we also are instructing our Regions to identify existing sites with similarities to the Gold King Mine site and to identify any immediate threats and consider appropriate response actions.*

*If you have questions or wish to discuss a particular situation please reach out to Mathy.*

*Thank you.*